



Chief's Message

March 2013

As stated in the previous Chief's Message of January 2013, we are increasing our efforts to reach consumers to provide awareness, consumer protection, and news about the Bureau of Automotive Repair.

Recently, I have established an Education Outreach and Planning Program with a coordinator to improve outreach to educators. The coordinator's first order of business is to meet with educators and school administrators, community colleges and the Department of Education in an effort to gain support for increasing the number of automotive programs in high schools and creating a career path for advanced automotive technology training in community colleges or technical schools. Vehicles of today and tomorrow require advanced computer skills and technological and scientific knowledge. Our goal is to support a steady influx of educated technicians to support the ever-advancing vehicle technology into the future.

One of these recent advancements is the federally mandated tire pressure monitoring systems (TPMS), a warning indicator on your vehicle's dashboard that lets you know when one or more of your tires are low in pressure. Tire stores that diagnose TPMS sensors must be registered with the Bureau of Automotive Repair. Businesses benefit from this registration because it establishes a level-playing field where all tire stores that serve these warning devices are registered. Consumers will benefit because they will receive a written estimate and be protected by all other provisions in the Automotive Repair Act.

By now, you should not see any more Gold Shield signs because the program ended this past December 31, 2012. We wish to thank each former Gold Shield Station that served in the BAR program. We welcome the STAR Program which has taken its place. For more information on the new STAR program, please visit our BAR Web site: www.bar.ca.gov which has pertinent questions and answers provided for both consumers and technicians.

The BAR San Jose Field Office has relocated to: 6860 Santa Teresa Blvd., San Jose, CA 95119, retaining their phone number: (408) 277-1860. This change of address and other updates are listed on our Web site: www.bar.ca.gov.

John Wallaugh